

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An immunological latex turbidimetry method for analyzing an antigen or antibody in a sample, comprising steps of:

(1) bringing a sample which may contain the antigen or antibody to be analyzed into contact with a protease-treated fragmentated bovine serum albumin; and

(2) bringing a mixture obtained in the above step (1) into contact with latex particles carrying an antibody or antigen specifically reacting with the antigen or antibody to be assayed and analyzing a turbidity caused by a latex agglutination reaction.

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (original): The immunological latex turbidimetry method according to claim 1 wherein the protease is a pepsin.

5. (original): The immunological latex turbidimetry method according to claim 1 wherein the antibody to be analyzed is an anti-streptolysin O antibody, and the antigen carried on the latex particles is a streptolysin O antigen.

6. (currently amended): An immunological latex turbidimetry reagent comprising (1) a first component containing a protease-treated fragmentated bovine serum albumin, and (2) a second component containing latex particles carrying an antibody or antigen specifically reacting with an antigen or antibody to be assayed.

7. (canceled).

8. (canceled).

9. (original): The immunological latex turbidimetry reagent according to claim 6 wherein the protease is a pepsin.

10. (original): The immunological latex turbidimetry reagent according to claim 6 wherein the antibody to be analyzed is an anti-streptolysin O antibody, and the antigen carried on the latex particles is a streptolysin O antigen.